

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 ACDA-07 /080 W

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R 061726Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6010

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10632

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, UR, WB

SUBJECT: SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS: SAHM-GROMYKO MEETING JULY 2

REF: MOSCOW 10508

1. SUMMARY. DURING FRG AMBASSADOR SAHM'S CALL ON GROMYKO JULY 2 TO PRESENT FRG RESPONSE TO SOVIET MAY 22 DECLARATION, GROMYKO STRESSED THE POSITIVE AND WAS RELAXED AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT. WEST GERMANS HERE SUSPECT THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR SOVIET ACTIVITY ON FRG FRONT BEFORE FEDERAL ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN QUADRIPARTITE MEETING JULY 6, SAHM SAID THAT ON JULY 1 HE HAD ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH BREZHNEV TO DELIVER TEXT OF FRG REPLY, SINCE FALIN HAD SEEN SCHMIDT. HE WAS TOLD SAME AFTERNOON THAT BREZHNEV WAS TERRIBLY BUSY AND HAD INSTRUCTED GROMYKO TO RECEIVE SAHM.

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3. DURING JULY 2 MEETING, GROMYKO HAD BEEN VERY RELAXED AND FRIENDLY, SAHM REPORTED. HE TOLD SAHM HE HAD NOT YET HAD TIME TO STUDY THE FRG DOCUMENT, AND THEN PROCEEDED TO MAKE A STATEMENT EXACTLY LIKE THE TASS REPORT WHICH APPEARED THE NEXT DAY IN PRAVDA.

4. IN GENERAL, GROMYKO HAD STRESSED THE POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN THE FRG RESPONSE. THE SOVIETS WOULD HAVE HANDLED SOME POINTS DIFFERENTLY, HOWEVER, AND IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THERE WAS BOTH "LIGHT AND SHADOW" IN THE RESPONSE. AT THAT POINT SAHM COMMENTED THAT THESE WERE EXACTLY THE WORDS HE HAD USED IN REPORTING THE MAY 22 STATEMENT TO BONN, AT WHICH THEY BOTH LAUGHED.

5. SAHM SAID IT HAD ALSO BEEN CONFIRMED THAT GENSCHER WOULD MEET WITH GROMYKO IN NEW YORK THIS AUTUMN; HE THOUGHT THE DATE WAS SEPTEMBER 21.

6. SAHM SAID THE GERMANS HAVE THE GENERAL FEELING THAT THE SOVIETS WILL UNDERTAKE NO MAJOR NEW ACTIVITY ON THE FRG FRONT UNTIL AFTER THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS. USA INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ARBATOV AND DEPUTY FONMIN ZEMSKOV HAD CONFIRMED THIS TO HIM JULY 5, COMMENTING THAT WITH THE EXCHANGE OF STATEMENTS EVERYTHING HAD BEEN SAID FOR THE TIME BEING.

7. SAHM CONCLUDED THAT THE GERMANS, FOR THEIR PART, DEFINITELY PLAN TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE WITH THE SOVIETS, ESPECIALLY ON BERLIN, AFTER THE ELECTIONS. HE SAID HE ASSUMED WE HAD HEARD ABOUT THIS INTENTION FROM OUR EMBASSY IN BONN.

8. COMMENT. SAHM HAS JUST RETURNED FROM BONN, AND MADE IT SOUND AS IF THE FRG'S INTENTION TO MOVE VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIETS AFTER THE ELECTION IS RELATIVELY FIRM. STOESEL

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